

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously presented) A method for discovering status of a network topology, comprising the steps of:
 - presenting an interface having a menu, the menu having a plurality of alternative discovery methods;
 - responsive to user input, establishing an order in which the alternative discovery methods should be performed;
 - executing the alternative discovery methods in the established order;
 - maintaining a dynamically gathered record of devices which are compliant to at least one of a first discovery method and a second discovery method; and
 - using an appropriate discovery method for a given device according to the dynamically gathered record, wherein a first device of the devices is accessed using the first discovery method and a second device of the devices is accessed using the second discovery method.
2. (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
 - maintaining a record of devices in the network which are discovered through the first discovery method; and
 - removing those devices in the record from discovery through the second discovery method.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
 - altering the established order according to a first number of devices compliant to the first discovery method and a second number of devices compliant to the second discovery method according to the record.
5. (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the alternative discovery methods that are executed in the established order are at least two of a simple network

management protocol (SNMP), an Internet protocol packet Internet Groper (IP ping), a point-to-point over ethernet (PPPoE), and a dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP).

6. (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
modifying the established order of the alternative discovery methods that was used in the step of executing the alternative discovery methods based on network response time for at least some of the devices.

7-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously presented) A computer program product in a tangible computer-readable medium for discovering status of a network topology, comprising:

instructions for presenting an interface having a menu, the menu having a plurality of alternative discovery methods;

instructions, responsive to user input, for establishing an order in which the alternative discovery methods should be performed;

instructions for executing the alternative discovery methods in the established order;

instructions for maintaining a dynamically gathered record of devices which are compliant to at least one of a first discovery method and a second discovery method; and

instructions for using an appropriate discovery method for a given device according to the dynamically gathered record, wherein a first device of the devices is accessed using the first discovery method and a second device of the devices is accessed using the second discovery method.

19. (Previously presented) The computer program product as recited in claim 18, further comprising:

instructions for maintaining a record of devices in the network which are discovered through the first discovery method; and

instructions for removing those devices in the record from discovery through the second discovery method.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously presented) The computer program product as recited in claim 18, further comprising:

instructions for altering the established order according to a first number of devices compliant to the first discovery method and a second number of devices compliant to the second discovery method according to the record.

22. (Previously presented) The computer program product as recited in claim 18, wherein the alternative discovery methods that are executed in the established order are at least two of a simple network management protocol (SNMP), an Internet protocol packet Internet Groper (IP ping), a point-to-point over ethernet (PPPoE), and a dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP).

23. (Previously presented) The computer program product as recited in claim 18, further comprising:

instructions for modifying the established order of the alternative discovery methods that was used by the instructions for executing the alternative discovery methods based on network response time for at least some of the devices.

24-34. (Cancelled)

35. (Previously presented) A system for discovering status of a network topology, comprising:

presenting means for presenting an interface having a menu, the menu having a plurality of alternative discovery methods;

establishing means, responsive to user input, for establishing an order in which the alternative discovery methods should be performed;

executing means for executing the alternative discovery methods in the established order;

maintaining means for maintaining a dynamically gathered record of devices which are compliant to at least one of a first discovery method and a second discovery method; and

using means for using an appropriate discovery method for a given device according to the dynamically gathered record, wherein a first device of the devices is accessed using the first discovery method and a second device of the devices is accessed using the second discovery method.

36. (Cancelled)